

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6940

BILL NUMBER: SB 309

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 9, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Restructuring county and township government.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: ___**GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Pending

Summary of Legislation: *Abolishing Townships Served by a Township Trustee-Assessor:* The bill abolishes, effective July 1, 2008, township governmental functions in each township served by a township trustee-assessor and makes the following changes with respect to those townships and the counties in which they are located:

- (1) It transfers the duties and responsibilities of the township trustee-assessor to the county assessor.
- (2) It abolishes the offices of township trustee and township board and transfers the duties and responsibilities of the township trustee and township board (including duties and responsibilities related to township assistance, fire protection, cemetery maintenance, parks and recreations, and libraries) to the county.
- (3) It establishes a county firefighting fund.
- (4) It establishes a county cumulative building and equipment fund for firefighting.
- (5) It transfers township fund balances to the county and specifies the permitted use of the money.
- (6) It makes township indebtedness an obligation of the county transferred from the township to pay the indebtedness.

(7) It allows the obligation of the county, and requires the county to use county money to levy property taxes to pay indebtedness not covered by money transferred from the township, and specifies the areas in which the taxes may be levied.

(8) It increases the county's maximum property tax levy based on the assumption of former township duties, and establishes a separate county maximum property tax levy for firefighting.

County Assessor: The bill makes the county assessor responsible for contracting for property assessment services and for choosing computer systems.

Reconstitution of a Dissolved Township: The bill provides for the reconstitution of a township government that has been dissolved if the township attains a population of at least 35,000 and 1,000 registered voters in the township petition for a public question on the reconstitution of the township government.

County Executive: The bill allows a county to change its county executive from three members to a single county executive elected by all the voters of the county. It also requires each county, except a county containing a consolidated city, to place a public question on the 2008 general election ballot asking the voters of the county whether to convert the county executive from three members to one member.

Townships in Marion County: The bill provides that the township board of each township in Marion County consists of five members instead of seven members.

Repeals: Repeals obsolete provisions.

Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *As of the above date, the fiscal analysis of this bill has not been completed. Please contact the Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis for an update of this fiscal impact statement.*

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Karen Firestone, 317-234-2106.